

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL

Submitted herewith is a Response to Election/Restriction Requirement for the above-identified patent application.

[X] No additional fee is required.

[X] Also attached: Return Receipt Postcard.

[X] The fee is calculated as shown below:

	PRESENT # OF CLAIMS	HIGHEST # PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	FEE
Total Claims	18	20		x \$50 =	\$ .00
Independent Claims	1	3		x \$200 =	\$ .00
1		Multiple Dependent Claims Fee			\$ .00
		Subtotal			\$ .00
		Subtract % if Small Entity			\$ .00
		TOTAL FEE DUE			\$ .00

[ ] Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0206 in the amount of \$ .00 for the above-indicated fees. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is submitted herewith.

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any shortage in fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 associated with the filing of this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206. This authorization does not include any issue fees under 37 CFR 1.18. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunton & Williams LLP

By:

Thomas W. Anderson

Registration No. 37,063

TEA/vrp

Hunton & Williams LLP  
1900 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109  
Telephone: (202) 955-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 778-2201  
Date: March 24, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :  
:   
Herman Kwong et al. : Group Art Unit: 2835  
:   
Appln. No.: 10/728,894 :   
: Examiner: Yelena Rossoshek  
Filed: December 8, 2003 :   
:   
For: CONTACT MAPPING USING CHANNEL :   
ROUTING :

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 3, 2006,  
please consider the following remarks regarding the above-  
identified patent application.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 3, 2006, has been received and carefully considered. Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the outstanding election/restriction requirement is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. THE ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the present application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct inventions: claims 1-9 and 15-18 drawn to a method for mapping contacts of a programmable logic device (PLD) to an electronic component in a signal routing device; and claims 10-14 drawn to a method for optimizing a mapping of contacts of a programmable logic device (PLD) to an electronic component in a signal routing device.

The Applicant hereby respectfully traverses this election/restriction requirement, and hereby requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this election/restriction requirement. As required, however, the Applicant provisionally elects claims 1-9 and 15-18 for prosecution in the event that this election/restriction requirement is made final.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 121, restriction is appropriate if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed, in one application. As set forth in MPEP § 802.01, inventions are independent if there is no disclosed relationship between the two or more subjects disclosed, and inventions are distinct if two or more subjects as disclosed are capable of separate manufacture, use, or sale as claimed.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner attempts to explain how the invention defined in claims 1-9 is distinct from the invention defined in claims 10-14. However, the Examiner fails to explain how the invention defined in claims 1-9 is independent from the invention defined in claims 10-14. That is, it is clear that the invention defined in claims 1-9 and the invention defined in claims 10-14 are both directed to a method for mapping contacts of a programmable logic device (PLD) to an electronic component in a signal routing device having one or more layers (see preambles). Thus, the invention defined in claims 1-9 and the invention defined in claims 10-14 are clearly related and are not independent from each other. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the election/restriction requirement is improper, and the withdrawal of such election/restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

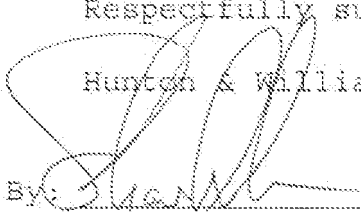
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunton & Williams LLP

By:   
Thomas E. Anderson  
Registration No. 37,063

TEA/vrp

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Washington, D.C. 20006-1109  
Telephone: (202) 955-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 778-2201

Date: March 24, 2006